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Rural District of North
Westmorland

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1958

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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Kendal 1296.

Stricklandgate House,
P.O. Box 18,
Kendal.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of North
Westmorland.*

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Rural District during the year 1958.

Owing to the printing trade dispute at the time of publication, this edition has a minimum number of alterations to the text of the previous year's report.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres ...	...	...	288,688
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)...			16,280
Inhabited houses	...	...	5,202
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£121,494
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	£478
Rate in the Pound levied	...	...	17/4d.
of which the County Rate was	...	...	15/2d.

The Rural District of North Westmorland lies between the central mountainous mass of the Lake District and the escarpment of the Pennine Chain, and possesses a wide variety of scenery. The main geographical feature of the District is the Eden Valley, a fertile agricultural strip which was once the route of a Roman highway and later a strong line of defence against the Border raiders. The River Eden rises in lonely Mallerstang, flows past the market town of Kirkby Stephen to the foothills of the Pennine Range, and thence north-westwards through the ancient Borough of Appleby to its junction with the River Eamont, where it leaves the District.

The country to the north-east rises abruptly to some 2,500 feet, and on the far side the northernmost boundary lies in the desolate area of the Upper Tees Valley. To the south-west of the Eden Valley lies the central upland plateau which extends from Shap to Kirkby Stephen broken only by a few charming wooded valleys and occasional villages. South of this plateau the River Lune flows through pleasant pastoral Ravenstonedale into the austere gorge below Tebay, and the southern boundary of the District is the 2,000 feet high rampart of the great watershed of Westmorland. In the south-west the great barren fells of the Lake District rise to over 3,000 feet above sea level, and in the valleys lie the beautiful lakes of Ullswater and Haweswater. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of North Westmorland is also very varied. The escarpment of the Pennine Chain on the north and the central upland mass are formed of lower carboniferous limestone, and the Eden Valley lies between along the lines of the Pennine Fault. The Cross Fell inlier in the Dufton and Hilton areas is a unique formation containing in miniature most of the Lake District rocks, Skiddaw slates, Borrowdale volcanic rocks, Coniston limestone, the Ashgillian series, and Silurian strata above which follows the dominating carboniferous series of the escarpment.

The Vale of Eden is composed mainly of permian sandstone, with St. Bees sandstone in the south, with small beds of red shales, gypsum and magnesium limestone. Above and below the Penrith sandstone lie Brockrams and Breccias, and further west some red conglomerate basement beds are found in the Pooley Bridge area. To the south-west the Borrowdale Volcanic series occur, with ashes and breccias often well bedded and cleaved, and the Silurian strata commence south of Shap. A further interesting feature is the outcrop of the Shap granite intrusion through the Borrowdale series near their junction with the thin Coniston limestone beds. Glacial drift remains at several places and the valley bottoms contain alluvial deposits. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is equable in the valleys and invigorating on the fell-sides and uplands. The air is generally very clear and there is little mist or fog. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the mornings. The average rainfall is 73 inches a year in the Haweswater area, and snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is primarily agricultural in character and many of the small local industries are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much local employment and bring a measure of prosperity to the villages:—

Stone Quarries.

Gypsum Mines.

Barytes Mines.

Cement Manufactory.

Plasterworks.

Textile Factories.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business along the main highways, and in the Lake District areas. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has helped to stop the drift from the countryside and has kept North Westmorland happily free from unemployment, and has provided the economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Calvert, D.	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Public Health Inspector	Part	Engineer and Surveyor
Hart, G.	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Part	Surveyor
Proud, W. L. C.	A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Cradock, N.	—	Clerk and Technical Assistant	Whole	—
Johnstone, E.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Holliday, M.	—	Clerk	Part	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

There were none during the year.

COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Public Health Committee deals with most of the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Housing, Water and Licensing Committees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1957 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 288,688

	1957	1958
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	16,320	16,280
Live Births. Legitimate— males	132	132
females	107	138
Illegitimate— males	10	7
females	4	6
Total	253	283
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	15.5	17.3
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	17.05	19.03
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.1	16.4
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. ..	.85	.79
Still Births. Legitimate— males	3	5
females	7	5
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Total	10	10
Total (live and still) births ..	263	293
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38.02	34.1
Rate for England and Wales ..	22.4	21.6
Deaths. males	104	119
females	79	91
Total	183	210
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	11.2	12.9
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	11.3	13.02
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.5	11.7

	1957	1958
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year):		
Legitimate	9	8
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.6	29.6
Illegitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Total deaths under 1 year	9	8
Rate per 1,000 live births	35.5	28.2
Rate for England and Wales ..	23.0	22.5
Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month):		
Total neo-natal deaths	7	7
Rate per 1,000 live births	27.6	24.7
Rate for England and Wales	16.5	16.2
Maternal Mortality:		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	0.47	0.43

Deaths from certain causes:—	1957.	1958.
Cancer	30	30
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil

The main causes of Death were:—

Heart Disease ... .. .	...	...	72
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	49
Cancer ... .. .	...	...	30

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

The 1951 Census revealed a population of 16,959 persons, which is about a thousand less than in the same area in 1931, equivalent to a net loss of some 6% over the 20 years. It is perhaps even more significant to note that the percentage represents an excess of births over deaths of 7.2% heavily neutralised by a net emigration of 13.1% from your District. In other words North Westmorland has been depopulated faster than even your very brisk birth rate could maintain your numbers. I think that most of the exodus was in the early part of those 20 years, and the 1921 Census figures indicate that the drop cannot all be explained away by the withdrawal of the workmen who built the Haweswater dam. Some steady emigration has been going on for a long time. About 500 of your people go to work each day in Cumberland, mainly in the Penrith area.

I believe that the setting up of a better basis for agriculture in the national economy will check the drift from the countryside, and will encourage your young folk to renew their faith in country life by settling down in their native parts. Only some 55% of the people in Westmorland were born in the County.

A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Birth Rate.

Your birth rate has generally been above the average for England and Wales, and is still well above your death rate.

Still Birth Rate.

Your still birth rate was 34. It ought to be less.

Death Rate.

Your corrected death rate was above that for England and Wales, but I attach no significance to the fact.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

This year's rate was 28.2. Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under the age of one month. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth and abnormal development, which are more likely to cause death within the first month from the

factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were eight infant deaths in 1958 and of these seven were neo-natal deaths. Your infantile death rate has been about the average for England and Wales during the past 10 years. Your figures are too scanty to carry any great statistical significance, but I feel that they reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses and above all, by the young mothers in their homes. I hope that this happy state will continue.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or the result of difficult child-birth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating.

1958 was an excellent year for freedom from epidemics of notifiable disease.

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious diseases has much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect.

I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

	Total	Ages										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths		
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-			45-	65-
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ..	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	-	3	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council’s functions are three-fold; to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were:—

Respiratory	...	49
Non-Respiratory	...	23
		—
		72
		—

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Newcastle, at Penrith and Carlisle.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to Langley Park Hospital, Durham City, or to Fairhill Hospital, Penrith.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

Disinfection Arrangements.

On account of the geographic difficulties it is not usually practicable to effect steam disinfection, and reliance has to be placed upon formaldehyde treatment in the house of the patient.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

There were 5,202 inhabited houses on your Rate Books at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 16,280, the average number of persons per house is 3.1, which is not a high figure. Seven houses are legally overcrowded within the strict definition of the Housing Act which assumes that living-rooms are used also for sleeping purposes and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health and family relationships. At the time of the 1951 Census there were 4,890 private households living in 4,774 structurally separate dwellings.

The great majority of cottage houses and farm-houses are of considerable age and are stone built. Many of these old houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable.

105 dwellinghouses have been renovated or improved during the year by the installation of baths and modern sanitation and improved cooking facilities, etc., as well as the conversion of 9 privies or earth-closets into water-closets.

General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 800 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15% of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

In your own District good progress continued with slum clearance and was limited to dealing with any Class 5 houses becoming vacant. Every endeavour was made to persuade owners to recondition them if there seemed any possibility of retaining them as dwellings.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 349 houses within the next fifteen years. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved that scheme and it is now on deposit for public inspection. You may have to speed up a bit.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

Three closing orders were made during the year.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Three such undertakings were accepted during the year.

Undertakings to perform works.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

One such undertaking was accepted during the year.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Six demolition orders were made during the year. Your Council resolved to demolish the six huts at Burrells.

There are no outstanding clearance areas although several blocks of property are over-ripe for such action.

Informal Action.

In addition to the above formal notices, two unfit houses were reconditioned by the owners.

Improvement Grants.

93 houses have been renovated or converted under Grants made by the Council since the passing of the Act, including 23 during 1958.

Improvement Grants have been approved in the case of a further 30 houses when the work was either in progress or had not been commenced at the end of the year.

The modification of the standard of fitness and relaxation of certain conditions made by the Housing (Repair and Rents) Act, 1954, has resulted in a marked increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants.

Your Council's Housing Schemes and Progress.

The position at the end of the year relating to houses constructed or in course of construction and sites developed or in course of development since the end of the 1939-45 war was:—

Completed	...	249
Under construction	...	Nil

During the year 7 were completed.

The increase in interest rates on loans and the virtual removal of the housing subsidy for new Council houses for general needs were the main factors responsible for the slowing down of the Council's house building programme. The erection of further Council houses in the immediate future will probably be restricted to slum clearance needs.

Houses Built by Private Enterprise.

Since the war 108 houses have been completed, 8 of which were completed during 1958 and 15 were under construction at the end of the year.

Tenants Selection.

When Council houses become available handbills are posted on village notice boards, inviting applicants and stating whether the house is reserved for agricultural workers. All applicants are supplied

with a form for submitting details of their personal circumstances, domestic and financial, to your Council. The applications are considered by your Housing Committee together with any other information which can be supplied by the members of your Council for that area. There is no anonymity and your Housing Committee attach importance to the personal knowledge of your Councillors in making their selection. This system has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. No application list of persons desiring housing is maintained by your Council.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 424 occupied houses, situated in widely dispersed sites in your extensive District. The housing management is largely in the hands of the Public Health Inspectorate, and every effort is made to inspect the houses at regular intervals to see that the property is kept in good condition.

165 Council houses were built before the 1939-45 war, and many are over 30 years old. The increase in numbers and age of these houses calls for more frequent attention and entails higher maintenance costs.

The rents of your Council houses vary from 4/6d. to 18/-, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £8 and £21. The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first sight to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rent and rates from that portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can affect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

No cases were reported during the year.

Nuisances and Notices re Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During 1958 there were 52 Informal Notices served under the Act, and seven Statutory Notices were served.

Certificates of Disrepair.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Three certificates were issued during the year.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

Action was necessary against one building.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-269.

There are seven licensed camping sites in the Rural District at Barton School; Clifton; Eamont Bridge; Waterside, Ullswater; Low Moor, Kirkby Thore; Park Foot Farm, Pooley Bridge; Brougham Farm, Brougham.

10 individual camping licences were in force during the year.

Unlicensed camping sites are limited to occasional use and are mainly on the Ullswater Shore or along the banks of the River Eden during the fishing season. These casual campers cause little nuisance by their improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal, but they take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

A more serious nuisance occurs during the June Fair near Appleby and the Brough Fair later in the year. Both these Fairs are held under ancient charters and were once two of the most important horse fairs in England. Horse-drawn caravans, motor-trailers, and tents assemble in hundreds along the roadside and the occupants use the field and hedgerows for all sanitary purposes, leaving after their departure a foul and polluted area.

Steps are being taken in Appleby Borough to concentrate the June Fair on to Gallows Hill and to install a proper water supply and chemical closets. This action should be advantageous to your Rural District as much of the nuisance occurs therein. I recommend that your Council should consider similar action for the Brough Fair. The ancient charter privileges could be preserved without the unjustifiable and indiscriminate pollution to the District, which at present constitute a danger to the health of both the gypsies and the residents.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply to your District is derived from many sources. The principal source of public supply is that from your regional scheme at Blea Water, the mains from which extend into 25 of your 52 parishes.

Your Council control and maintain 19 other sources of public supply in whole or part of 32 parishes. A portion of your District is dependent upon individual private supplies from wells, springs, or water-courses. Martindale has no public water supply. Many houses

in Hartley, Ravenstonedale, and Stainmore are supplied from the private systems installed in these three areas.

The quality of the public supplies is indifferent, as will be seen from the results of laboratory examinations and chemical analyses carried out, which are set out in Appendix "A." I have no official knowledge of the quality of the myriad of private supplies, but I suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory in quality and very variable in quantity. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and if in doubt they should boil it.

The day may not be far off for the amalgamation of your water undertaking with those around Penrith to form a Water Board, voluntary action has not been successful, so the shadow of a Ministerial order is creeping nearer.

The following is a brief review of the various sources of your Council's public water supplies:—

Regional Scheme.

The source of supply is from Blea Water, which is a small tarn at 1,584 feet O.D. lying in the fell to the west of Haweswater in the catchment area owned by Manchester Corporation. The water is supplied by the owners in bulk to a small reservoir at Harper Hill, whence it falls to your Council's filter-house a short distance below in Swindale.

At the filter-house alumina and chalk are added to the raw water before it is filtered through Bell's pressure filters. Lime is further added to raise the pH, and the water is chlorinated occasionally.

The quality generally is fairly good. About 300,000 gallons per day pass through the filter-house. The distribution mains extend into 25 parishes, with associated service reservoirs and balancing tanks.

This Regional supply which serves the greater part of the District is now seriously overstrained to its breaking point with the result that bursts and shortages have been very troublesome. The system needs radical reorganisation to meet the needs of both the present and the future.

As a stopgap measure the Council purchased and took over from the Ministry of Works the pumping installation in Lowther Park and this was kept in operation throughout the year. Water is obtained from a well situated near the River Lowther, and after filtration and chlorination it is pumped into a covered reservoir which was originally used to supply Lowther Castle and Lowther village. Water is piped from this reservoir and connected to the Council's main at Lowther

village to augment the supply to the Hackthorpe reservoir which serves the lower part of the western side of the District.

Approximately 20,000 gallons of water per day has been obtained from this source since the Council took over the plant, and this has greatly assisted in maintaining the supply in the western area, as well as helping Penrith with a reserve bulk supply to meet their own difficulties.

An additional permanent improvement was the completion during 1957 of a new six-inch main from Swindale filter-house to Thrimby. The intended purpose of this main was to stimulate the supply to the western part of the District and especially to assist in maintaining the water levels in the Hackthorpe and Windrigg Hill reservoirs. It was not intended for the purpose of improving the supply to the eastern part of the District.

Since the main was put into use there has been a decided improvement generally in the supply to the western part of the District. There is still some difficulty in maintaining the supply to the Clifton Dykes, Melkinthorpe, and South Whinfell area and also at certain parts of Bolton and Kings Meaburn. The Council have authorised the laying of a bypass main from Hackthorpe reservoir to Melkinthorpe which should remedy the trouble.

The supply to the eastern part of the District is still very unsatisfactory. The parishes at the south-eastern extremity of the system, including Nateby, Wharton, parts of Kirkby Stephen, Crosby Garrett and Musgrave and several high points in other parishes, frequently receive an intermittent supply. During the winter months when the demand in the mains is high, due to all cattle being indoors and having only mains water to drink, several houses and farms in the parishes of Nateby and Wharton have been entirely without water from the mains for several weeks. This situation has occurred gradually over a period of years and has now reached a most serious stage and it is essential that steps be taken to restore a satisfactory supply to all parts of the District.

The Council have considered reports and suggested improvements proposed from their Officers and Consulting Engineer. The cost of any scheme which will properly relieve the shortages will be unavoidably very high, but it is most important that there should be no further delay in arriving at a decision on the water and having the work put in hand.

Barton Supply.

This source of supply is from springs on Barton Fell which are screened before the water enters the storage reservoir. The parishes

supplied are Barton, Sockbridge, Tirril, Yanwath and Eamont Bridge. The quality is fair. An auxiliary supply from another spring was installed during 1949 to overcome shortage in the Cellaron area during the severe drought.

Orton Supply.

Supply is upland surface water from Churn Ghyll on Langdale Fell. The water is screened and distributed in the Parish of Orton, with the hamlets of Kelleth, Raisbeck and Greenholme. There is ample water at the headworks, but the number of consumers served from the three-inch main before it reaches the balancing reservoir east of Orton village causes very little margin to be left for extra demands or leakages, and the higher points on the system suffer from shortage. The quality is fair.

A by-pass main has been laid at a point below the Knott reservoir in order to make possible the stimulation of the supply to Orton and Greenholme during periods of heavy demand. The general position is that the mains are overloaded and improvement is needed.

Tebay Supply.

The source is the same as that for Orton, and the Parish of Tebay with Langdale and Gaisgill are supplied with the water after screening. The quality is fair.

Shap Supply.

Supply is obtained from upland surface sources at Force Beck. The water is passed through a gravitating slow filter of very doubtful efficiency, and the bacteriological results are very poor on account of animal manurial contamination upstream.

A small diameter connection has been made between the Shap water main and the four-inch Regional main at the north end of Shap village. This is intended to stimulate the supply to certain houses at the north end of Shap.

In view of the proposed development of limestone quarries in the gathering ground of the Shap supply, the Council have decided to discard the present supply and join up Shap with the Regional main.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry for the construction of a new reservoir at Kirk Bank and the laying of sections of new main, and it is hoped that the work will be carried out during the ensuing year.

Wickersgill Supply.

This is a small private scheme supplying the houses near the Shap Granite Works. This source is upland surface water from a moorland beck and springs in a disused quarry. There is a small reservoir and a sand filter. The bacteriological results are indifferent.

Kirkby Stephen Supply.

The source is from springs at Cold Keld in Kaber parish. There are settling tanks and screens, and the water is chlorinated before distribution at Kirkby Stephen, Winton and part of Hartley. The quality of the treated water is satisfactory, but filtration is much needed.

This water is very badly discoloured and contains a large amount of suspended matter during periods of heavy rain. The water is objectionable when it is discoloured and many complaints are received from consumers on these occasions. During periods of dry weather the Cold Keld springs are barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the area served and shortages occur at the higher situated properties.

The supply should be augmented and the water should be given treatment in the form of precipitation and filtration. Alternatively, the Cold Keld supply could be discontinued and the Kirkby Stephen area joined up to the Regional supply after larger mains have been laid.

Kaber Supply.

This supply comes from a spring on the hills near Rookby in the Parish of Kaber. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is variable.

Brough Supply.

The source of this supply is from springs at Thornthwaite in Hillbeck parish, and the distribution is to Hillbeck, Brough and Brough Sowerby, and part of Stainmore. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality is liable to be poor bacteriologically.

Bleatarn Supply.

The Bleatarn area of Warcop parish is supplied from a spring near Bleatarn village. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent bacteriologically. It is insufficient during parts of the year to meet the requirements of the Bleatarn area. Most of the farms concerned are milk-producing farms and require good and constant supplies of water for dairying purposes. During

the summer months, especially if preceded by a dry and snowless winter, the spring quickly falls off to a mere trickle and several of the properties are then unable to obtain water from the mains.

Warcop Supply.

A spring near Habergill furnishes the supply in the Parish of Warcop except the Bleatarn area. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the supply is fair.

Hilton Supply.

A spring on the fells near Scordale supplies the Hilton area of Murton parish. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent.

Murton Supply.

This source is from a spring on the fells near Murton. There are settling tanks and screens. The bacteriological quality of the water is poor. Mains replacement was carried out during 1953.

Dufton Supply.

The water comes from a spring near Keisley. There are settling tanks and screens. The water is of fair quality. Shortages are acute in dry years.

Longmarton Supply.

This is a mixed supply from two sources, one spring on Dufton Pike and one spring at Close Houses. There are screens and settling tanks. The Parishes of Longmarton and Crackenthorpe are supplied. The quality of the water is fair. Shortage is experienced in the drought and the supply has to be augmented from Great Rundale Beck, and consumers are warned to boil it before drinking during those periods.

Kirkby Thore Supply.

Springs in Marble Scar in the Parish of Milburn form the source of supply to Kirkby Thore and Milburn. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is fair. The supply has to be augmented from a private source at Howgill Castle Farm during the drought.

Ormside Supply.

The source is a spring at Heights and supplies the Parish of Ormside. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent bacteriologically.

The spring can not fully meet the needs of the Ormside area during long periods of dry weather, and shortages occur at the hospital and at other of the higher situated properties. The supply is temporarily augmented by means of a small diameter pipe from Heights Farm which is served from the Regional supply, but this is not a satisfactory arrangement.

The provision of an adequate water supply to Ormside should be taken into account when the improvement of the Regional supply to the eastern area is being considered.

Temple Sowerby Supply.

The supply comes from a collecting chamber at Newbiggin Mill near Milburn. The source is bad as it is situated in the low-lying pastures very near a watercourse into which your Council drain their Milburn village septic tank not far upstream. I am not satisfied about possible seepage or the chance of occasional flooding with sewage-polluted water. The long-needed chlorination apparatus was installed during 1956 at the Newbiggin reservoir, and since then consistently good bacteriological reports have been obtained.

Newbiggin-on-Lune Supply.

Upland surface water from a beck at Swarth Ghyll forms the supply to the Newbiggin area of the Parish of Ravenstonedale. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is fair.

Outhgill and Shoregill Supply.

The scheme was installed in 1951. A spring at Well Gill forms the source of a piped supply to both hamlets and works well. The quality is similar to other systems of this type.

General Provision of Baths and Sinks.

The 1951 Census showed that your District held 4,890 households of whom 2,776 had no fixed bath. That means over 56%: rather staggering for the middle of the 20th century.

631 households had no kitchen sink. Only some 12%, but I would like to see an improvement.

General Quality.

The poor and indifferent bacteriological results are, except for the obvious risks at Newbiggin Mill and Lowther Park, due to the upland gathering grounds being grazed by stock with the consequent manurial

PUBLIC WATER DISTRIBUTION.

Parish	No. of Houses in Parish	No. of Houses with water laid on	No. of Houses supplied from Stand Taps	No. of Houses otherwise supplied
Asby	103	88	—	15
Askham	117	117	—	—
Bampton	128	107	—	21
Barton	83	64	—	19
Bolton	85	83	1	1
Brough	240	228	3	9
Brough Sowerby	30	26	—	4
Brougham	80	69	1	10
Cliburn	58	58	—	—
Clifton	107	106	—	1
Colby	27	27	—	—
Crackenthorpe	29	28	—	1
Crosby Garrett	52	48	—	4
Crosby Ravensworth	177	165	—	12
Duften	85	65	—	20
Hartley	46	38	5	3
Hillbeck	9	9	—	—
Hoff	61	60	—	1
Kaber	36	32	—	4
Kings Meaburn	42	42	—	—
Kirkby Stephen	575	574	—	1
Kirkby Thore	164	163	—	1
Long Marton	207	203	—	4
Lowther	116	103	—	13
Mallerstang	53	5	—	48
Martindale	43	—	—	43
Milburn	57	49	—	8
Morland	99	96	1	2
Murton	101	84	8	9
Musgrave	52	48	—	4
Nateby	40	37	3	—
Newbiggin	36	35	—	1
Newby	49	49	—	—
Ormside	38	28	—	10
Orton	224	169	—	55
Ravenstonedale	218	69*	12	137
Shap	394	359	1	34
Shap Rural	61	34	—	27
Sleagill	29	29	—	—
Sockbridge & Tirril	76	76	—	—
Soulby	59	58	—	1
Stainmore	110	—	—	110
Great Strickland	66	60	—	6
Little Strickland	24	22	—	2
Tebay	277	244	—	33
Temple Sowerby	114	111	2	1
Thrimby	15	12	—	3
Waitby	19	17	—	2
Warcop	138	126	—	12
Wharton	10	9	—	1
Winton	65	61	2	2
Yanwath & Eamont Bridge	78	76	—	2
TOTALS ..	5202	4466	39	697

* This does not include the houses supplied from the Ravenstonedale Private Supply.

contamination of the water after rainfall. The bacterial counts fluctuate widely according to climatic conditions, and as most of your public waters are untreated the contamination tends to be a nuisance in laboratory control rather than any particular danger to the consumer. Certain sources, however, require close investigation and supervision against human pollution.

The Minister of Health requires me to state the number of houses and population in each of your 52 parishes with water laid on and with water available from standpipes.

Proposed Future Water Schemes.

Regional Improvement Scheme.

Since terms are agreed for the acquisition of more water from Mardale it will be possible to extend the Regional supply to further areas in the eastern part of your District.

Your consulting engineers have recommended extension of the filters, the laying of mains from Swindale through Shap, Orton and Newbiggin-on-Lune to Kirkby Stephen to form a comprehensive scheme for the southern portion of your District.

A later development envisages the laying of another main from Shap through Appleby and Brough to form with the southern branch a complete ring main which would serve almost the whole of your area. It seems unlikely that the scheme will go forward for some time on account of the present economic difficulties.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government made a survey of your water supplies during 1951 and his inspector's report, published in 1952, recommended a combination of the local authorities in North Westmorland and the Penrith areas of Cumberland, but the suggestion met with almost universal disapproval up here. Since then the Government have been actively pursuing a policy of amalgamation of the smaller water undertakings, preferably under an approved voluntary scheme, but otherwise by the exercise of compulsory powers.

It seems doubtful whether your Council could successfully resist the formation of a Water Board to include the Penrith areas. Our own undertaking is kept going in the face of very great administrative difficulties, some of our small water supply systems are of questionable efficiency and some, like the Regional, are subject to an unreasonable amount of breakdowns or pressure shortage.

For such a scattered rural area we are fairly well watered, and all credit is due to the pioneers who installed our systems. It was no fault of theirs that the mains lack carrying capacity or that the agricultural demand for extra water has leapt up so enormously in the last couple

of decades. But we have to look forward rather than backward, and the scale of reorganisation is so big that it might be beyond our local resources for the foreseeable future, particularly if water rates are held so low.

If we could set our house into better order in reasonable time, and could attract grants to help to pay for the much-needed improvements, we might be able to remain independent, but otherwise it seems only a matter of time before some sort of North Westmorland and Penrith Water Board is formed by compulsory powers, as is happening in many other parts of England today.

SEWERAGE.

General Position.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 14.

There is need for improved sewerage in your District. Your progress in the extension of the public water supplies has outstripped the disposal arrangements. Most of the villages are provided with some system of piped or culverted sewers, which may have served well in the past but many are now inadequate for present needs, and in some cases the installation of modern water-closets is delayed by sewerage difficulties. Many of the smaller villages in your District require drastic overhauling and reprovision. My report for 1947 tabulated the 28 sewage disposal works in your District. Many of these works are in poor structural condition and their efficiency is impaired by overloading or decay.

Your Council has made vigorous attempts to remedy the worst areas, and is making quite good progress, in spite of an increasingly unsympathetic attitude of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to give financial grants to help.

Prevalence of Water-closets.

The prevalence of water-closets is largely governed by the availability of adequate water and sewerage. As most of your District is well watered the main deterrent is sewerage, although there has been an increased tendency recently to install septic tanks. It is estimated that less than 25% of the houses outside the larger villages are provided with water-closets. At the time of the 1951 Census your District held 4,890 households, of whom 2,257 (or about 46%) were entirely without a water-closet and another 137 had to share one. Those figures indicate what a long way we have to go.

Conversion to Water-closets.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

There were 51 conversions to water-closets during the year. Your Council made no contributions under this Act, but some were made under improvement grant schemes.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Your Council provided public conveniences at Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Tebay and Shap. The accommodation is generally sufficient for local requirements but it is inadequate to deal with the seasonal motor-coach traffic.

These coaches present a special difficulty in Kirkby Stephen which is used as a halting point for a very large number of Tyneside-Blackpool vehicles, and the shortage is accentuated by their arrival within a short period of time. Fouling of streets, doorways and yards results.

At Pooley Bridge a similar difficulty arises to a slightly lesser extent when coach parties arrive and the Ullswater Lake Steamers disembark. A site has now been acquired for building a convenience and work was in progress at the year end. It should prove a very valuable service.

Proposed Schemes for Sewerage.

Your Council fully appreciates the magnitude of the task in raising the standard of sewerage to that of their water supplies, and they have planned to carry out the following works when the current restrictions of capital expenditure have been removed. The programme is so extensive that it will probably have to be carried out in stages:—

Brough.

The scheme for new disposal works and extension of sewers was approved by the Minister of Health in general principle, but permission to start was limited to that portion of the scheme which superseded the bad outfall at Waggon House, and which allowed further development of your Council's housing estate. The work was completed in 1952, but the plant could not function to its full efficiency with the limited flow of sewage. Permission was received in 1956 to undertake the second stage, and the work was completed during 1957. The obsolete Coltsfield plant is now abandoned, and the new disposal works are a welcome improvement. But because they are incomplete, they too have become overloaded.

The Council have instructed their Consulting Engineer to prepare the necessary particulars for the completion of the disposal works and extension of the sewer to Church Brough and certain other properties in the village now drained to septic tanks.

Tebay.

The sewage disposal works were completed and put into operation during 1954. They have continued to function satisfactorily and have dealt with the sewage from most of the houses in Tebay.

Shap.

Work commenced in 1953 to install a comprehensive system of sewers and a modern sewage disposal plant to replace the obsolete foul drainage of Shap. The scheme is being carried out in stages, and the second stage of this scheme, re-laying of the sewers in the main road through Shap, was completed during the year. Fairly good progress was also made with the third and final stage for the laying of some new sewers at the south end of the village and the provision of a pumping station. It is hoped that the whole of the work will be completed during the early months of 1959.

Temple Sowerby.

A new section of sewer of about 200 yards in length has been laid alongside the A.66 road, and the drains from about 12 houses have been connected to this new sewer. The old sewer had insufficient fall and was generally in bad condition, and flooding of the basements of some of the houses was liable to occur during periods of heavy rain.

The Ministry's approval to the scheme for the construction of new disposal works and certain new sewers, etc., was given during 1957, but, as a definite decision on the question of grant was not made known by the Minister at the time of approving the scheme, the Council have deferred the commencing date.

Tirril and Sockbridge.

A scheme for the construction of disposal works and sewers was approved by the Minister of Health in 1957. Contractors worked on the site during the current year and it is expected to be completed around June 1959. This will be a most welcome improvement because present conditions are dangerous and particularly foul in dry weather where the beck becomes little more than a filthy open sewer flowing through the village.

Askham.

Your Council awarded Askham priority even with Sockbridge and Tirril, and Temple Sowerby. The Minister of Housing and Local Government held an Inquiry in 1956, and subsequently approved the scheme for the construction of new sewers and disposal works, but the commencing date was deferred by the Council as no decision in the question of grant payment by the Minister had been received at the end of the year.

Other Schemes.

At the request of your Council, the Engineers have prepared outline sewage schemes for Milburn, Kirkby Thore, Clifton, and Great Strickland.

Other outline schemes, prepared in past years, and now shelved include Hartley, Hilton, Soulby, Ravenstonedale, Asby, Bolton, Eamont Bridge, Crosby Ravensworth, and Maulds Meaburn, Little Strickland and Morland. A formidable list.

Existing Sewage Facilities.

The following are brief details of the existing sewage facilities in the district:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Kirkby Stephen | ... | Adequate piped sewers and disposal works. |
| 2. Brough | ... | Piped sewers and incomplete disposal works. |
| 3. Orton | ... | Piped sewers and modern disposal works. |
| 4. Tebay | ... | Piped sewers and modern disposal works. |
| 5. Shap | ... | Piped and culverted sewers, modern disposal works. |
| 6. Pooley Bridge | ... | Piped sewers and old disposal works. |

Most other villages in the district are provided with some form of piped sewers, but in many cases they are unsuitable for the direct reception and conveyance of sewage from water-closets. Public sewage tanks or septic tanks are provided in many of these villages and the effluents are disposed of either by land irrigation or direct to streams.

General Maintenance.

The obtaining of casual labour to carry out the cleaning out of sewage tanks and general maintenance of sewage disposal works is

a most difficult matter, and, as a result, some of the tanks and sewage works do not receive the amount of attention they require.

The employment of a permanent mobile squad of men to carry out this work would appear to be the best solution for a scattered district of this nature.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Areas of Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

The collection of house refuse by using two mechanical refuse collecting vehicles, each with a squad of three men, has continued throughout the year. Collections are carried out in all parishes with the exception of Martindale, but in the less populous areas the collections are limited to once per month. In Kirkby Stephen, Shap, Brough and Tebay collections are made weekly and in other parts of the District fortnightly.

The present refuse waggons have been in use for several years and are now reaching the end of their useful life. The Council have agreed to purchase two new vehicles of a similar type.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Controlled tipping is the aim of the Council, but it is difficult to obtain sufficient covering material and labour to keep the tips in proper condition.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at the following points:—

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Stamp Hill, Kirkby Thore. | 5. Great Strickland. |
| 2. Gallansey Road, Soulby. | 6. Clifton Dykes. |
| 3. Langton Road, Warcop. | 7. Kings Meaburn. |
| 4. Orton Fell. | 8. Fell East of Tebay. |

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

Street cleansing is carried out by the Westmorland County Council in the larger villages, and these are usually maintained in good order.

Extra street cleansing has been carried out at Kirkby Stephen on Sundays during the summer due to the large amount of litter resulting from the coach traffic.

Pest Control.

The Council's Clerk of Works, Mr. T. Taylor, continues to function

as Pests Officer under the control of the Health Inspectors. The treatment of the refuse tips and sewage works for the destruction of rats is carried out on one or two occasions during the year. The treatment of private houses and other properties is carried out by the Council when requested by the persons responsible, and the costs in these cases are recovered. The Council's refuse tips are regularly treated.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 87.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13-15.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

We have now passed the stage of educational approach. A small minority of food traders have remained untouched by years of hygiene propaganda, unmoved by conscience, and unwilling to believe that the law need apply to them as they pursue their unsweet ways. They hoard masses of filthy junk in their food stores, cling on to ancient stocks of rotting food, tolerate disgusting staff toilets, and even have the effrontery to appear before their customers in dirty and greasy overalls. I repeat that the bad traders are now only a very small minority, and they are being dealt with in no uncertain fashion whenever they are reported.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of

diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Special efforts have been made during the year to visit as many food premises as possible for the purpose of carrying out inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 64 visits were made and nine Informal Notices were issued and most of these had been complied with at the end of the year.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	...	...	...	0
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	...	...	...	2
Storage and sale only	...	...	...	...	56

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises on the Register for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods, was 26. Informal Notices have been issued regarding certain alterations and improvements.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Total number of registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	2

No samples of milk were taken during the year for cleanliness tests or for tuberculosis examination. It was not necessary to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of milk handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations on account of infectious disease.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of designated milks. Four dealers' licences and five supplementary licences were granted during the year.

Slaughterhouses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Part IV.

Your Council have adopted a policy of licensing small private slaughterhouses. From the point of view of efficient control and inspection of meat in such a scattered area it can only be regarded as a retrograde and regrettable step. It is, of course realised that many difficulties would arise in the establishment and management by the Council of central abattoirs in a district of this nature, but a workable scheme of centralised slaughtering would not appear to be beyond the bounds of possibility, and the advantages to the public health of the community would seem more desirable than individual trade interests. Centralised slaughtering worked very well between 1940 and 1954.

At the end of the year slaughterhouse licences had been granted in respect of the following premises:—

1. Fletcher Hill, Kirkby Stephen.
2. Bridge End, Church Brough.
3. Musgrave Lane, Soulby.
4. Oak House, Ravenstonedale.
5. Main Street, Longmarton.
6. Ash House, Kirkby Thore.
7. Langton Field, Appleby.
8. Front Street, Orton.
9. Main Street, Shap.
10. Back Lane, Kirkby Stephen.

Before granting the licences, every effort was made to obtain desirable improvements to the premises and the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, were regarded as a minimum standard.

The introduction of private slaughtering at so many widely separated points has added very considerably to the difficulties of meat inspection, and much of the Inspectors' time is now taken up by this work.

Notifications of slaughter, as required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are in operation, and after some initial difficulties appear to be working satisfactorily.

Every effort is made to ensure a 100% inspection of all meat, but it is possible only in a few cases for the Inspectors to be present at the time of slaughter; that is unfortunate but unavoidable, and it is the public who have to bear the risk. Unless the staffing difficulties in the department are soon eased it may be necessary to abandon inspection of some of the meat.

CONDEMNATION OF MEAT AT THE ABATTOIR

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 10.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	407	139	2	1,879	462
Number inspected ..	407	139	2	1,879	462
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	4	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	106	55	—	82	25
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26.04	39.64	—	4.89	5.42
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticerosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, received the Royal Assent on 1st August, 1958, and came into operation on that date. The report referred to in Section 3 to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, cannot be formulated until consultations have been carried out by the Council with all interested organisations. As the report must be submitted to the Minister not later than October 1960, steps should be taken as soon as possible for the necessary consultations to take place.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

The following other foodstuffs were condemned:—

Canned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	73 lbs.
„ Luncheon Meat, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4 pints
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
„ Fruit, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	37 lbs.
Fruit Cake, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employs one Chief Public Health Inspector and two Additional Public Health Inspectors. The salary is apportioned between the health inspection duties and other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health. You receive through the County Council a grant of one-half of that apportionment of the salary allocated to public health inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which time is devoted to the various duties.

The Chief Inspector is located at the Council Offices in Kirkby Stephen, and the senior of the two Additional Inspectors is located at Shap. The third Inspector assists where he is required from time to time.

The Chief Inspector has the assistance of one female clerk and one male clerk and, in addition to being responsible for the whole Rural District, he has personal charge of the Eastern Division which represents that portion of your District which was East Westmorland before the boundary alteration in 1935.

The Second Inspector has an office in Shap and has the assistance of one part-time female clerk. He is responsible to the Chief Inspector for carrying out the Council's duties in the Western Division which represents the old Shap Urban District and Shap Rural District and the West Ward.

I recommend once again the centralisation of administration within your area. The divided control is a bad relic of the fusion of the Districts which took place in 1935, and if the unification is to be made an effective unit of Local Government it must be a union in spirit and body as well as in name. I consider it most important that further division should not be forced on the departments when the Council moves part of the offices to Appleby.

The imposition of delegated functions under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 remains an additional burden on the Health Department Staff. What makes matters even worse is that their water engineering duties take up an inordinate amount of time with the perpetual breakdowns and complaints in our overstrained undertaking. There is far too little time left now for our public health inspectors to get on with their proper duties of public health inspection. Their own health is suffering trying to do it, and unless the situation is to deteriorate into mere lip service to public health work some re-organisation is essential. Either more staff or transfer of functions are among the obvious answers.

Inspections Made and Notices Served.

	Number of In- spections	Informal Notices Served	Informal Notices Comp. with	Statutory Notices Served	Statutory Notices Comp. with
Houses (P. H. Act) ..	843	36	25	7	I
Houses (Housing Act)	197	—	—	—	—
Factories	38	2	I	—	—
Shops, Cafes, Hotels	64	9	9	—	—
Slaughterhouses ..	741	—	—	—	—
Schools	15	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases ..	21	—	—	—	—
Dairies	4	2	2	—	—
Water Supplies ..	295	2	2	—	—
Moveable Dwellings etc.	24	—	—	—	—
Council's Works ..	390	—	—	—	—
Building Byelaws ..	928	—	—	—	—
Pest Destruction ..	14	—	—	—	—
Drains	486	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	587	I	I	—	—
TOTAL ..	4647	52	40	7	I

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 60 factories in your District, five are non-mechanical factories and 55 are provided with power.

One out-worker was notified to your Council by factory owners.

There are no recognised basement bake-houses in the District.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service giving details of the Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	5	—	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	55	38	1	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	60	38	1	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	I	I	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	I	—	I	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	I	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	I	I	—	—

Shops Act, 1950.

64 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. These duties are not adequately covered at present due to the prior claims of other work, but it is hoped to increase the supervision. Informal Notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No certificates were issued during the year and no contraventions regarding rent book entries were found.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.

No action was required.

Laboratory Service.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 196.

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes, free of charge to the Local Authority and the patient. This encourages the use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47.

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal. Several individuals were visited for consideration. Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force with regard to:—

New Buildings	Tents, vans and sheds.
Prevention of waste, misuse and contamination of water.	
Food handling.	

New Legislation.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations, 1957, became operative
31st December, 1957.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, became operative 1st August, 1958.

APPENDIX "A". **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.**

Nature of Test			Standards Max.	Barton	Blea Tarn	Bleawater Raw	Bleawater Treated	Brough
Pr. Coli count 37° ..			3-10	8	0	0	0	5
Faecal Coli/strep ..			0	+				+
Character			—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction			—	6.5	6.5	6.5	8.5	7
Ammonical Nitrogen ..			.041	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	.01	.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..			.066	less than .02	.04	.05	.01	.07
Total Solids			1000	56	249	35	68	162
Hardness {	Total ..		300	41	114	18	24	99
	Carbonate ..		—	8	60	0	4	39
	Non-Carb... ..		—	33	54	18	20	60
Chlorides			30	6	13.0	6.0	4	6
Nitrates			1	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites			0	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed			1	.28	.24	.42	.16	2.1
Heavy Metals			0	—	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	0
Rainfall 24 hours ..			—	Slight	Sl. Snow	Nil	Snow	Nil
Date Sampled			—	30.6.58	11.3.58	17.3.58	22.1.58	14.1.58
Laboratory			—	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Nature of Test			Coupland Beck	Dufton	Hilton	Kaber	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Thore ex. Marble Scaur
Pr. Coli count 37° ..			0	0	0	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep ..								
Character			Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction			6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5
Ammonical Nitrogen ..			.01	.02	.02	.01	.01	less than .01
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..			.01	.05	.03	.03	.04	.03
Dissolved Solids			125	106	138	167	180	246
Hardness {	Total ..		47	60	80	110	106	169
	Carbonate ..		3	38	39	86	71	85
	Non-Carb... ..		44	22	41	24	35	84
Chlorides			9.0	8	8	7.0	5	11
Nitrates			—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites			—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed			less than .04	.04	.08	.7	1.4	.36
Heavy Metals			0	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace
Rainfall 24 hours ..			Snow	Heavy	Slight	Slight	Snow	Slight
Date Sampled			11.2.58	29.7.58	27.6.58	4.2.58	22.1.58	4.3.58
Laboratory			Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.

APPENDIX "A". **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies—contd.**

Nature of Test	Kirkby Thore ex. Newbiggin Mill	Long Marton	Lowther Park	Maller- stang	Murton	Newbiggin- on-Lune
Pr. Coli count 37° ..	0	35	0	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep ..		+				
Character	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	7.5	7.0	6.5	7.5	6.5	7.0
Ammonical Nitrogen ..	less than .02	.02	.024	.01	.02	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	.03	.08	.074	.05	.03	.04
Total Solids	135	57	113	100	56	73
Hardness {	Total ..	88	32	69	49	20
	Carbonate ..	40	12	34	5	6
	Non-Carb... ..	48	20	35	44	14
Chlorides	13	7	9	5.5	7.5	6
Nitrates	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed .. ..	.36	.04	.24	1.74	.04	.4
Heavy Metals	Zinc Trace	0	0	Zinc Trace	Zinc trace	Zinc Trace
Rainfall 24 hours ..	Nil	Heavy	Moderate	Snow	Slight	Nil
Date Sampled	12.3.58	29.7.58	11.2.57	11.2.58	27.6.58	16.1.58
Laboratory	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Nature of Test	Ormside	Orton	Shap	Tebay	Warcop	Wickersgill
Pr. Coli count 37° ..	0	0	90	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep ..			+			
Character	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0
Ammonical Nitrogen ..	less than .02	less than .02	.23	less than .02	.01	.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	.02	less than .02	.29	less than .02	.01	.03
Dissolved Solids	359	52	78	58	125	58
Hardness {	Total ..	204	30	46	30	109
	Carbonate ..	117	0	25	2	85
	Non-Carb... ..	87	30	21	28	24
Chlorides	10	5	6.5	6 0	8.0	4.5
Nitrates	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed .. ..	.04	.4	.82	.5	.04	1.2
Heavy Metals	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc Trace	Zinc 3
Rainfall 24 hours ..	Snow	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Nil
Date Sampled	11.3.58	18.2.58	15.9.58	18.2.58	4.2.58	15.12.58
Laboratory	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.

